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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6473

BILL NUMBER: SB 175

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 20, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Absentee Ballot Applications.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Young R Michael

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill requires a voter requesting an absentee ballot, except for a voter casting an absentee ballot in person at the circuit court clerk's office or a satellite office, to provide the voter's voter identification number (VIN) as a part of the absentee ballot application. The bill provides that if an absentee voter does not provide the voter's voter identification number, the voter's application for an absentee ballot shall be denied.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Currently, both absentee ballot application forms (ABS-1 regular and ABS-2 mail-only) used by the Election Commission provide a box for the applicant to write in their Indiana driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number, either of which is suitable as the voter's VIN. However, the box is currently optional for the applicant to complete the form. A minor revision to both forms would have to be made in order to comply with the provisions of the bill. Given that the forms are readily available online, the Election Commission could make the changes to the forms with negligible additional expenditure.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Circuit court clerks would be able to record voter identification numbers from absentee ballot applicants within existing resources.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Commission.

Local Agencies Affected: Circuit court clerk.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.